

House Republican Press Release

June 8, 2005  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

**Ruwet, Miner Call for Real Campaign Finance Reform**



*Representatives Opposes Taxpayer-Funded  
Political Campaigns*

State Rep. Anne L. Ruwet, R-65<sup>th</sup>, and Craig A. Miner, R-66<sup>th</sup>, have cosponsored a measure to impose tough limits on political contributions and avoid the use of taxpayer funds for political campaigns.

The House majority, however, defeated the proposal 53-82 along party lines and instead voted to use state government funds for gubernatorial and legislative campaigns. State Senator candidates who raise \$20,000 would qualify for \$130,000 in state grants. House candidates who raise \$7,500 would qualify for \$27,500 in state grants.

“I support a real campaign finance reform bill,” said **Rep. Ruwet**. “A measure that gets rid of PAC, lobbyist, and ad book sources of contributions for election campaigns is essential. However, I continue to object to the use taxpayer dollars to pay for more political signs, campaign mail and phone calls.”

Ruwet noted that her constituents have consistently indicated in heavy numbers that they oppose taxpayer financing of political campaigns.

“If we are serious about eliminating special interest influence in politics, we can’t replace lobbyist money with government funds. That is not really reforming campaign spending,” said Ruwet.

The measure for tougher finance laws also called for the immediate ban on political action committee (PAC), lobbyist and so-called ad book contributions from business and labor organizations. However, the Democratic majority defeated this amendment, thereby postponing the ban for six months.

**Rep. Miner said**, “Many of us in the General Assembly are very interested in passing real campaign finance reform. Instead, we passed legislation that promises to put significantly more money into the process and how will we fund it—deposit on soda bottles. If this matter wasn’t so serious, it would be laughable. My hope is that the bills passed by the House and Senate fail to become law and that those truly interested in making meaningful change pursue a more logical approach that removes the big money.”

Ruwet said, “If the Democrats feel it is bad to accept these special interest contributions, then they should have agreed to ban them now.

Rep. Ruwet said she believes that campaign reform is only successful if it can actually reform existing practices.